

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5583

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish an alternative path to teaching in needy school districts.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 26, 2000

Mr. TIERNEY (for himself and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish an alternative path to teaching in needy school districts.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Alternative Path to
5 Teaching Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 The purposes of this Act are—

8 (1) to encourage highly knowledgeable individ-
9 uals to teach in needy school districts; and

1 (2) to provide them with strong support, espe-
2 cially during their initial years of teaching.

3 **SEC. 3. ALTERNATIVE PATH TO TEACHING IN NEEDY**
4 **SCHOOL DISTRICTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Higher Education
6 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) is amended by in-
7 serting after section 203 the following:

8 **“SEC. 203A. ALTERNATIVE PATH TO TEACHING IN NEEDY**
9 **SCHOOL DISTRICTS.**

10 “(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is author-
12 ized, in accordance with the provisions of this sec-
13 tion, to make grants, on a competitive basis, to
14 collaboratives satisfying the requirements of para-
15 graph (3) to carry out the purposes described in
16 subsection (b).

17 “(2) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds re-
18 ceived under this section shall be used to supple-
19 ment, and not supplant, funds provided to a State,
20 a local educational agency, or any other person or
21 entity, under any other Federal or State program es-
22 tablished for the purpose of increasing the ability of
23 local educational agencies effectively to recruit highly
24 qualified teachers, such as funds provided under sec-
25 tion 204.

1 “(3) REQUIREMENTS ON COLLABORATIVES.—

2 “(A) STATE LICENSING EXAMINATION.—In
3 order to receive a grant under this section, a
4 collaborative shall be established by one or more
5 local educational agencies in a State that re-
6 quires an individual to have passed a State
7 teacher licensing examination in order to obtain
8 State certification as a teacher.

9 “(B) ESTABLISHMENT; REQUIRED PAR-
10 TICIPANTS.—In order to be eligible for a grant
11 under this section, a collaborative shall be es-
12 tablished by one or more local educational agen-
13 cies and shall have a membership that includes
14 at least one representative from each of the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(i) The local educational agency or
17 agencies establishing the collaborative, and
18 any other local educational agency that de-
19 sires to participate.

20 “(ii) Institutions of higher education
21 that are—

22 “(I) selected by the local edu-
23 cational agency or agencies estab-
24 lishing the collaborative;

1 “(II) not rated by any State as
2 being low performing; and

3 “(III) in compliance with all ap-
4 plicable provisions of this Act.

5 “(iii) Any additional entity—

6 “(I) selected by the entities de-
7 scribed in clauses (i) and (ii); and

8 “(II) deemed by such entities—

9 “(aa) to be of assistance
10 with recruiting, training, or plac-
11 ing teachers from diverse back-
12 grounds in eligible schools; and

13 “(bb) to have a record of
14 providing high quality and effec-
15 tive professional development to
16 teachers in eligible schools.

17 “(4) APPLICATIONS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each collaborative de-
19 siring to receive a grant under this section shall
20 prepare and submit an application to the Sec-
21 retary at such time and in such a manner as
22 the Secretary deems appropriate.

23 “(B) WRITTEN STATEMENT OF SUP-
24 PORT.—Such application shall include a written
25 statement of support, cooperation, and inten-

tion to participate as necessary in accordance with the provisions of this section, including an assurance that the matching requirements in paragraph (6) will be satisfied, from—

“(i) the head of the State educational agency;

“(ii) the head of the State higher education agency or the State university system (if the head of such agency or system is different from the head of the State educational agency); and

“(iii) the head of the State agency that is responsible for teacher licensure or certification (if the head of such agency is different from the person described in clause (ii)).

“(5) MINIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—Grants awarded under this section—

“(A) subject to subparagraph (B), shall be for not less than \$250,000 per grantee, per year; and

“(B) shall be for not less than \$5,000,000 per State, per year.

“(6) CARRYOVER.—A collaborative receiving a grant under this section may use any grant funds

1 that remain at the end of a grant year in the suc-
2 ceeding year.

3 “(b) USES OF FUNDS.—

4 “(1) REQUIRED USES OF FUNDS.—A collabo-
5 rative shall use funds received under this section for
6 the following purposes:

7 “(A) Developing and implementing an in-
8 tensive full-time pre-service training program
9 for collaborative participants that—

10 “(i) provides a minimum of 240 hours
11 of instruction to prepare participants to
12 commence teaching duties in eligible
13 schools; and

14 “(ii) makes successful completion of
15 the program contingent on receipt of an
16 evaluation incorporating a finding that the
17 graduate is prepared to begin teaching in
18 an eligible school.

19 “(B) Recruiting and screening of training
20 program applicants to ensure both quality and
21 diversity.

22 “(C) Providing stipends to collaborative
23 participants during their initial 240-hour train-
24 ing period, including stipends to cover the costs
25 of housing, board, and relocation, if such pay-

1 ments will help to ensure quality and diversity
2 in the corps of participants.

3 “(D) Recruiting, screening, training, and
4 providing ongoing support for, mentors for col-
5 laborative participants.

6 “(E) Purchasing release time for mentor
7 teachers and for collaborative participants for
8 induction activities during the first 3 years of
9 collaborative participation.

10 “(F) Evaluating individual collaborative
11 participants at the conclusion of their first year
12 of teaching.

13 “(G) Evaluating the collaborative’s pro-
14 grams as a whole to determine to what extent
15 they are an effective means of increasing the
16 percentage of fully qualified teachers in eligible
17 schools and improving student achievement in
18 those schools.

19 “(2) ALLOWABLE USES OF FUNDS.—A collabo-
20 rative may use funds received under this section for
21 the following purposes:

22 “(A) Providing bonuses to mentor teach-
23 ers.

1 “(B) Providing signing bonuses to collabo-
2 rative participants prior to the commencement
3 of their training.

4 “(c) QUALIFICATION OF COLLABORATIVE PARTICI-
5 PANTS.—

6 “(1) STANDARDS FOR MEMBER ACCEPTANCE.—

7 Each collaborative shall establish standards for ac-
8 ceptance of collaborative participants to ensure that
9 each class of collaborative participants is diverse and
10 that each collaborative participant possesses appro-
11 priate and high level credentials and is likely to be-
12 come a highly effective teacher in an eligible school.
13 At a minimum, all candidates accepted by any col-
14 laborative funded under this section shall possess the
15 following qualifications:

16 “(A) RECENT GRADUATES.—Individuals
17 who completed a bachelor’s degree 3 years or
18 less prior to applying to be a collaborative
19 participant—

20 “(i) shall have been in the top 25 per-
21 cent of their graduating class or have
22 placed in the top 25 percent nationally on
23 a widely used examination for entry into
24 graduate or professional school;

1 “(ii) if the individual intends to teach
2 at the elementary school level, shall possess
3 a bachelor’s degree that provides them
4 with the content area knowledge needed to
5 teach the full range of subjects included in
6 the elementary school curriculum; and

7 “(iii) if the individual intends to teach
8 at the secondary school level, shall possess
9 a bachelor’s degree in each subject area in
10 which the individual plans to provide in-
11 struction, or a closely related field.

12 “(B) OTHER GRADUATES.—Individuals
13 who completed a bachelor’s degree more than 3
14 years prior to applying to be a collaborative
15 participant—

16 “(i) shall have a record of outstanding
17 achievement in their profession;

18 “(ii) if the individual intends to teach
19 at the elementary school level, shall possess
20 a bachelor’s degree or professional back-
21 ground and experience that provides them
22 with the content area knowledge needed to
23 teach the full range of subjects included in
24 the elementary school curriculum; and

1 “(iii) if the individual intends to teach
2 at the secondary school level, shall possess
3 a bachelor’s degree in each subject area in
4 which the individual plans to provide in-
5 struction, or a closely related field.

6 “(2) LENGTH OF COMMITMENT.—All potential
7 collaborative participants shall be required, as a con-
8 dition on receipt of financial assistance from a col-
9 laborative under subsection (b), to make a 3-year
10 commitment to teach in eligible schools under the ju-
11 risdiction of the local educational agency or agencies
12 that established the collaborative.

13 “(d) PROVISIONS RELATING TO LOCAL EDU-
14 CATIONAL AGENCIES.—In order for a collaborative to use
15 a grant under this section for the benefit of a local edu-
16 cational agency establishing the collaborative, and for the
17 local educational agency to employ a teacher who is a col-
18 laborative participant, the local educational agency shall
19 provide to the Secretary assurances that—

20 “(1) the local educational agency has a rate of
21 employment of teachers who are not fully qualified,
22 teacher vacancies, teacher turnover, or use of sub-
23 stitutes that exceeds the State average;

1 “(2) no collaborative participant will be given a
2 teaching assignment in any school that is not an eli-
3 gible school;

4 “(3) no collaborative participant will be given a
5 teaching assignment for which he or she is not fully
6 qualified;

7 “(4) no collaborative participant will be asked
8 to teach, during the member’s first 3 years of teach-
9 ing, in a school in corrective action, as described in
10 section 1116(c)(5) of the Elementary and Secondary
11 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6317(c)(5));

12 “(5) all collaborative participants will receive
13 high intensity, sustained, high quality professional
14 development, including mentoring, throughout the
15 participant’s first year of teaching in an eligible
16 school;

17 “(6) all collaborative participants who success-
18 fully complete their first year of teaching will com-
19 plete, in their second and third year of teaching, a
20 professional development course based on an evalua-
21 tion that the participant receives from the collabo-
22 rative at the end of their first year of teaching; and

23 “(7) all collaborative participants who success-
24 fully complete their first year of teaching and are
25 given a positive evaluation and recommendation by

1 their principal and mentor will be offered an exten-
 2 sion of employment by the local educational agency,
 3 barring exceptional circumstances.

4 “(e) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO TEACHER LICEN-
 5 SURE OR CERTIFICATION.—

6 “(1) INITIAL TEACHER LICENSURE OR CERTIFI-
 7 CATION.—In order for a collaborative to receive a
 8 grant under this section, the State agency charged
 9 with teacher licensure or certification shall provide
 10 to the Secretary an assurance that it is authorized
 11 to, and shall, grant full and unrestricted first-year
 12 teacher certification or licensure to all collaborative
 13 participants who—

14 “(A) successfully complete the pre-service
 15 training program for collaborative participants
 16 described in subsection (b)(1)(A); and

17 “(B) pass all applicable State and local li-
 18 censing examinations for first-year teachers.

19 “(2) LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE RENEWAL.—In
 20 order for a collaborative to receive a grant under
 21 this section, the State agency charged with teacher
 22 licensure or certification shall provide to the Sec-
 23 retary an assurance that it is authorized to, and
 24 shall, renew a first-year license or certificate granted
 25 to a collaborative participant only if, at the end of

1 the participant’s first year of teaching, the partici-
2 pant receives a positive evaluation from the local
3 educational agency or agencies establishing the col-
4 laborative.

5 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

6 “(1) COLLABORATIVE.—The term ‘collabo-
7 rative’ means a partnership established in accord-
8 ance with the requirements of subsection (a)(3).

9 “(2) COLLABORATIVE PARTICIPANT.—The term
10 ‘collaborative participant’ means an individual who
11 is a trainee or teacher and is a recipient of financial
12 assistance, pre-service training, professional develop-
13 ment, or mentoring services provided by a collabo-
14 rative under this section.

15 “(3) ELIGIBLE SCHOOL.—The term ‘eligible
16 school’ means an elementary or secondary school in
17 which at least 35 percent of the students qualify for
18 free or reduced price meals pursuant to the National
19 School Lunch Act.

20 “(4) FULLY QUALIFIED.—The term ‘fully
21 qualified’—

22 “(A) when used with respect to a public el-
23 ementary or secondary school teacher (other
24 than a teacher teaching in a public charter
25 school), means that the teacher has obtained

1 State certification as a teacher (including cer-
2 tification obtained through alternative routes to
3 certification) or passed the State teacher licens-
4 ing exam and holds a license to teach in such
5 State; and

6 “(B) when used with respect to —

7 “(i) an elementary school teacher,
8 means that the teacher holds a bachelor’s
9 degree and demonstrates knowledge and
10 teaching skills in reading, writing, mathe-
11 matics, science, and other areas of the ele-
12 mentary school curriculum; or

13 “(ii) a middle or secondary school
14 teacher, means that the teacher holds a
15 bachelor’s degree and demonstrates a high
16 level of competency in all subject areas in
17 which he or she teaches through—

18 “(I) a high level of performance
19 on a rigorous State or local academic
20 subject areas test; or

21 “(II) completion of an academic
22 major in each of the subject areas in
23 which he or she provides instruction.

24 “(5) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—The
25 term ‘professional development’ means sustained and

1 intensive activities that improve teachers’ content
2 knowledge and teaching skills and that—

3 “(A) enhance the ability of teachers to help
4 all students, including females, minorities, chil-
5 dren with disabilities, children with limited
6 English proficiency and economically disadvan-
7 tagged children, reach high State and local con-
8 tent and student performance standards;

9 “(B) advance teacher understanding of one
10 or more of the core academic subject areas and
11 effective instructional strategies for improving
12 student achievement in those areas, including
13 technology;

14 “(C) are directly related to the subject
15 area in which the teacher provides instruction;

16 “(D) are of sufficient duration to have a
17 positive and lasting impact on classroom in-
18 struction;

19 “(E) are an integral part of broader school
20 and district-wide plans for raising student
21 achievement to State and local standards;

22 “(F) are aligned with State content and
23 student performance standards;

24 “(G) are based on the best available re-
25 search on teaching and learning;

“(H) include professional development activities that involve collaborative groups of teachers and administrators from the same school or district, institutions of higher education, and, to the greatest extent possible, include follow-up and school-based support such as coaching or study groups; and

“(I) as a whole, are regularly evaluated for their impact on increased teacher effectiveness and improved student achievement, with the findings of such evaluations used to improve the quality of professional development.”.

**SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS; ACCOUNTABILITY
AND EVALUATION.**

(a) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—Section 205 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1025) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by adding at the end the following:

“(C) COLLABORATIVES.—Grants awarded to collaboratives under section 203A shall be awarded for a period of 5 years.”;

(2) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

1 (B) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(C) with respect to grants under section
3 203A, give priority to applications from
4 collaboratives from States that have developed,
5 or are in the process of developing, a system of
6 incentives to encourage highly effective teachers
7 and individuals likely to become highly effective
8 teachers to teach in eligible schools.”;

9 (3) in subsection (b)(3), by inserting after the
10 first sentence the following: “To the extent prac-
11 ticable, the Secretary shall make awards under sec-
12 tion 203A that support programs in different geo-
13 graphic regions of the United States and areas with
14 varying population densities.”; and

15 (4) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
16 following:

17 “(3) COLLABORATIVE GRANTS.—If a collabo-
18 rative receives a grant under section 203A, the State
19 in which the collaborative is established and located
20 shall provide, from non-Federal sources (in cash or
21 in kind), an amount equal to the following percent-
22 ages of the grant amount to carry out the activities
23 supported by the grant:

24 “(A) In the first year of the grant, 25 per-
25 cent.

1 “(B) In the second year of the grant, 30
2 percent.

3 “(C) In the third year of the grant, 35
4 percent.

5 “(D) In the fourth year of the grant, 40
6 percent.

7 “(E) In the fifth year of the grant, 50 per-
8 cent.”.

9 (b) ACCOUNTABILITY AND EVALUATION.—Section
10 206 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
11 1026) is amended—

12 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
13 section (f); and

14 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(e) COLLABORATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY AND PRO-
17 GRAM EVALUATION.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each collaborative receiv-
19 ing funds under section 203A shall publicly report,
20 within 4 weeks of receipt of such results, the per-
21 centage of its trainees who pass all applicable State
22 and local initial teacher licensure or certification ex-
23 aminations. Such reporting shall prominently feature
24 such percentages for the most recent administration

1 of such examinations on all promotional and recruit-
2 ment material used by the collaborative.

3 “(2) REPORTS ON PASS RATES.—Each collabo-
4 rative receiving funds under section 203A annually
5 shall report to the Secretary the percentage of its
6 trainees who pass all applicable State and local ini-
7 tial teacher licensure or certification examinations.
8 Such reports shall include any additional informa-
9 tion that the Secretary may deem necessary and ap-
10 propriate to ensure the quality and integrity of that
11 collaborative’s program, or all programs under this
12 section in general.

13 “(3) INELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDS.—With respect
14 to any year, any collaborative whose training grad-
15 uates fail to pass any applicable State or local initial
16 teacher licensing or certification examination at a
17 rate of 90 percent or higher shall be ineligible for re-
18 ceipt of funds under section 203A in the succeeding
19 year.

20 “(4) REVIEW.—

21 “(A) FUNDS RESERVED FOR CERTAIN AC-
22 TIVITIES.—The Secretary shall reserve $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1
23 percent of the funds made available to carry out
24 section 203A—

1 “(i) to conduct a comprehensive eval-
2 uation of the program under such section
3 not later than 3 years after the date of the
4 enactment of the Alternative Path to
5 Teaching Act;

6 “(ii) to disseminate information to
7 qualified local educational agencies nation-
8 ally about grant opportunities under such
9 section;

10 “(iii) to establish a web page service
11 to share best practices and allow for active
12 exchange between grantees and between
13 grantees and the Secretary; and

14 “(iv) to evaluate applications from,
15 and award grants to, collaboratives to en-
16 able such collaboratives to carry out func-
17 tions described in such section.

18 “(B) MATTERS COVERED BY EVALUA-
19 TION.—The evaluation described in subpara-
20 graph (A)(i) shall assess—

21 “(i) the effectiveness of individual pro-
22 grams in recruiting large numbers of high-
23 ly qualified applicants from diverse back-
24 grounds;

1 “(ii) the qualifications of teachers re-
 2 cruited and trained through the program
 3 as compared to other teachers in partici-
 4 pating local educational agencies; and

5 “(iii) the retention rates of collabo-
 6 rative participants as compared to the re-
 7 tention rates of other new teachers for par-
 8 ticipating local educational agencies.”.

9 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 Section 210 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
 11 U.S.C. 1030) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “section 203;”
 13 and inserting “sections 203 and 203A;”;

14 (2) by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before
 15 “There are”; and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(b) ALLOCATION BETWEEN PARTNERSHIP AND
 18 COLLABORATIVE GRANTS.—Of the amount made available
 19 for any fiscal year under subsection (a)(2), 70 percent
 20 shall be available for grants under section 203 and 30 per-
 21 cent shall be available for grants under section 203A.”.

○